II.The total number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances from 1996-97 upto 1998-99 is 2,47,074

III. State-wise : Loan assistance by NHFDC :

(As on 14-03-2000) *(Rs. in lakhs)*

Sl.No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Benefi-ciaries	Amount	Benifi-ciaries	Amount	Benefi-ciaries	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	25.55	50	22.73	113	94.55
2.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	112	60.02
3.	Haryana	—	—	10	06.00	217	77.68
4.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	130	50.00	364	144.83
5.	Orissa	—	—	40	14.40	197	79.40
6.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	18	12.19
7.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	12	7.03
8.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	02	1.00
	TOTAL	11	25.55	230	93.13	1035	476.70

Restoration of Wakf Properties

2543. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) :
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken/being taken for getting the Wakf properties restored to Wakf Boards from the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) the progress made, so far; and

(c) by when all Wakf properties will be restored to Wakf Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Teaching and Learning Material for Disabled

2544. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :
MISS FRIDA TOPNO
SHRI SURESH KALMADI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposals to develop teaching and learning material for disabled children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the availability of such material at present and participation of NGOs in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Teaching and learning material at low cost have already been developed by the National Institutes in their respective area of disability. Non-Governmental Organisations are also involved in the production and distribution of the material. This is a continuing process. Various national and State level organisations displayed their existing material at an exhibition jointly organized by Rehabilitation Council of India and NCERT on 24th and 25th March, 2000 at New Delhi.

Declaring Jain Sect as a Minority

†2545. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not declaring Jain Sect as a minority even through it is a totally independent and separate religion like Islam, Christianity and Hindu religion;

(b) whether it is appropriate to pave the way for welfare activities to serve the interests of other minorities by ignoring the followers of Jain religion who are original natives of India; and

(c) if not, by when the Jain Sect will be declared as minority on the basis of their number ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The Question as to who constitutes a minority is [illegible] under a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The final decision in the matter of recognition of Jain Sect as minority will depend on the decision of the Supreme Court.

†Starred notice of the question was received on 07.04.2000